

Glory to God in the Highest Peace on Earth Happy Christmas to All

THE PARISH MESSENGER

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Christmas

By PROF. T. J. OLESON

On December 25th Christendom once again celebrates the Nativity of Christ the King. Over Nineteen hundred years ago Christ came to earth to establish the Church Militant and his Kingdom on earth. According to the words of the Gradual for the feast of Christ the King, "He shall rule from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth. And all the kings of the earth shall adore Him, all nations shall serve Him. His power shall be an everlasting power, which shall not be taken away; and His Kingdom a Kingdom that shall not decay." After nineteen hundred years mankind is still sustained by the hope that the millenium will come. One of the greatest forces in western civilization is this millenary hope, and it is one of the outstanding features of western civilization. Christ came to earth and in the words of Vergil "shall free the earth from never ceasing fear." The task is not yet accomplished but assuredly it will be, if mankind prove true and shrink not from the task Christ left it. He did not say it would be easy but he promised to be with men "even to the consummation of the world." He left men a priceless legacy, the legacy of hope. And as long as mankind possesses hope, it possesses all. All great creative periods of our history have been periods of hope, periods when men sustained by their faith in the ultimate triumph of good, strove to bring to pass the City of God on earth. Relying therefore on the promises of Christ, we should this Christmas resolve to get on with our work that the words of the Preface for the feast of Christ the King be not mere words but a true description of the state of this world: "that having subjected all creatures to His dominion He might present to Thine infinite Majesty an ever-lasting and universal Kingdom; a Kingdom of truth and life; a Kingdom

of holiness and grace; a Kingdom of justice, love and peace." Working to that end in the spirit of Christ, humanity will ensure its salvation. True to Christ the individual will be true to himself and the words of St. John (ii, 16-17) will be realized: "All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lusts thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

†

A HAPPY EVENT

By MRS. G. K. STEPHENSON

At a recent meeting of the Junior Ladies' Aid Society of the First Lutheran Church, it was unanimously decided that we pay our respects to Mrs. Eirikur Brynjolfson, by a visit to the parsonage. On October 7, we were joyfully received by our genial Rev. and Mrs. Brynjolfson who, by their kind and genial good fellowship, have endeared themselves to all who have had the privilege of meeting them.

Mrs. G. K. Stephenson made the presentation, and in a few words expressed appreciation to Mrs. Brynjolfson for her interest and kindly attitude to one and all. Our good wishes were then ushered in by singing "Hvad er svo glatt sem godra vina fundur", followed by community singing led by Mrs. Lincoln Johnson, with Mrs. L. T. Simmons at the piano.

Mrs. Brynjolfson responded with a few gracious remarks; then referred to her husband who, in his usual charming manner kept us in raptures of laughter with his witty remarks.

Mrs. F. Thordarson, Mrs. G. K. Stephenson, Mrs. W. R. Pottruff and Mrs. L. E. Summers were in charge of arrangements. Assistants included Mrs. L. T. Simmons, Mrs. G. Gunlaugson, Mrs. E. F. Stephenson and Mrs. O. V. Olafson.

A pleasant evening ended by all of us signing a guest book.

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THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM

By REV. B. A. BJARNASON

*"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem,
and see this thing which is come to pass,
which the Lord hath made known unto
us."—Luke 2:15.*

As we approach again with glad hearts the joyful Christmas festivities, and meditate anew on the glad tidings, let us in spirit join the ranks of the shepherds of old in their happy pilgrimage to the manger of Bethlehem. Let us give no mere lip service this Christmas. The whole world needs Christmas as never before; so do we. Let us this Christmas season open our hearts and souls wider than ever before, and permit the joyful tidings to grip our innermost being with new force, joy and transforming power. Yes, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem!"

*Let us go with Humility and Reverence—*The shepherds were humble, pious men. Theirs was a lowly occupation, generally despised and held in contempt among the Jews. Does it not seem strange, then, that the glad tidings should first be proclaimed to them? The tidings of great joy were for all men. The Messiah had been promised to all Israel. The people of God's chosen race undoubtedly expected the coming of the Redeemer to be attended by great pomp and ceremony. People throughout the length and breadth of Palestine could then assemble in great numbers and fall down in homage and praise before Him. "But God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform." The Promised One came quietly, and but a select few were permitted to witness His coming.

Hypocrisy, vainglory, mere external religion, can not see God nor comprehend His revelations. A humble, contrite and reverent heart is the kind that can see God and understand His voice. The common people heard Jesus gladly. Publicans and sinners were more responsive to the glad tidings than were the high and mighty rulers of the people. "Blessed are the poor in

spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

As we go to Bethlehem, we must crush out of our beings all false pride and hypocrisy. We miss the true spirit of Christmas, unless we go to Bethlehem with humble, contrite, pious and pure hearts.

Let us go with Love and Service.—The Christ child is God's gift of love to us. We must share Him with our fellowmen.

Love is the essence of Christianity. The life of Jesus Christ on earth was a perfect commentary on love in active service. Love is the keynote of His teachings. Because He loved us, He humbled himself and became one of us. Because He loved us, He willingly suffered the very torments of the condemned on the cross, that we might through living faith in Him be delivered from the bondage of our sins, and find peace for our souls and rest for our disturbed consciences. In Christ we see God: He is the spirit of love in active service.

The true Christmas spirit is the spirit of love—love reaching out for the blessing of our fellowmen. If this true spirit of Christmas were with us every day, some revolutionary events would occur. The world would be transformed wherever that spirit held sway in the hearts and lives of men. Selfishness would starve to death. Avarice would hang on gallows higher than those of Haman. Foolish pride would suffer ignominious defeat. Senseless strife and silly bickerings would be crowded out in the unity of Christian people for which Jesus prayed. Racial animosities would perish in a sea of universal brotherhood. War, with all its horrors, its brutality, its devilishness, would become utterly impossible; and "Peace on earth" would become a glorious, enduring reality.

We must bring love and service to the Bethlehem cradle, if our pilgrimage is not to be in vain.



DEDICATION OF ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH Seattle, Wash.

This church is situated in the southern part of Seattle, at 18th Ave. S.W. and W. Cambridge St. It belongs to the Pacific Synod of the United Lutheran Church. The congregation started from very small beginnings, being organized in 1921 with 20 members, and re-organized in 1928 with 25 members. Its first permanent pastor, and its only permanent pastor so far, is Rev. K. Simundson, who has

served there for over 19 years. He was ordained by the Icelandic Lutheran Synod, but served in our Synod not much more than a year. He and his devoted wife put their soul into the work of this mission. To the great sorrow of all who knew her, Mrs. Simundson passed away less than a year since.

The work has progressed to this point, that on September 21, this Fall, the congregation dedicated its second church, a beautiful structure costing \$75,000. The furniture is all new, and every piece is the gift of some organization or individual. The chimes are also a gift, dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Groa Simundson. A fine new organ has been installed. Very much labor was donated toward the building.

On the day of dedication three services were held: at 11 a.m., at 3 p.m., and at 8 p.m. A general description of the day is found in next Sunday's bulletin, as follows: "It was a beautiful day in every respect. The weather was perfect, the services were inspiring, the attendance was thrilling, and the church was truly beautiful. At the morning service of praise and thanksgiving to God, there were about 350 in attendance. At the Dedication Service about 500 people were present, and the evening Communion Service was attended by more than a hundred people." At the morning service 10 representatives of the congregation, led by the pastor, carried each a taper with light from the altar of the old structure and placed these on the altar of the new church. The pastor preached the sermon, baptized three adults and two infants, and received 23 new members into the congregation. The dedication in the afternoon was performed by Rev. L. H. Steinhoff, president of the Synod, assisted by the pastor and Rev. Stanley Holman. Memorial music was played by Mrs. Dorothy (Simundsson) Miller. A beautiful dedicatory poem by Mrs. B. E. Fiedler, was read by the pastor.

May God's blessing rest upon pastor and people in this church.

R. MARTEINSSON.

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

By MRS. RANNVEIG K. G. SIGBJORNSSON

"All the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day,

On Christmas Day,

All the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day in the morning."

Thus sang the poet.

And: What is it that makes the bells so joyful on Christmas morning?

Never has a more glorious message rung on

human ears than the one in Luke 2nd: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The air was filled with light, music and angels the likes of which we have no record of.

For more than nineteen centuries, this music and that light with its great message and most strange and beautiful surroundings, have inspired human hearts because of Him whom the angels were speaking of. He has made it come true through all the time that has passed since. Otherwise the story could not possibly have the power it has today over human hearts.

All the great masters who have produced music have come under the influence of Him who was born that night, and likewise the great painters. All that the Christian mind has produced in the realm of beauty, has been refined while coming into existence, in the knowledge of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is only one item. All that the Christian world has done and is doing in the realm of mercy may be traced back to the Child whose coming to the world the angels thus heralded.

The light and song of that Night shines through His person all through the ages and sends life-giving rays into the human soul. It lights the hamlet and the palace on equal terms, those of accepting Him. The presence of Jesus in the heart of man gives joy to the child, courage to those who bear the heat of the day, consolation to the aged, love and hope to the destitute and to all ages in their need.

He blessed the children, told the weary to come to Him, healed the sick, consoled the grief-stricken, raised the dead and promised His presence with all those who believe in Him. Yes, The Blessed Saviour of mankind is the great reason why we celebrate Christmas. It is done in one way or another; but if we do it in a sincere way with a good will towards everybody, it is certain to be acceptable to our Heavenly Father, although it may be ever so humble on our part.

May the Blessings of Christmas be with us all and a Happy New Year. May "all the bells on earth" ring Christmas tunes on Christmas morning and the world echo in true harmony: Glory to God in the highest; Peace on earth, all through the coming year.

A PRAYER

"O God, open our eyes that we might see clearly Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people. For Jesus' sake. Amen."

ADORNING THE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE

By REV. G. GUTTORMSSON

The New Testament urges Christian people to "adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things" (Tit. 2,10).

This may look like one of the "hard sayings" of Scripture. Are not the great passages, the central doctrines of the Bible, beautiful and perfect in themselves? one might ask.

And especially the Christmas texts, the Gospel stories of the Nativity, the Messianic prophecies and the New Testament passages that proclaim the wonder of the Incarnation—these, it may be argued, have already adorned the theme "far above our power to add or detract."

This sacred theme has been the delight and despair of Christian ministers through the centuries. It has filled their hearts with joy; but to make sermons about it — that was like attempting something futile, something superfluous, they felt; something like the proceedings condemned in a famous passage of Shakespeare:

*"To gild refined gold, to paint the lily,
To throw a perfume on the violet,
To smooth the ice, or add another hue
Unto the rainbow."*

Scripture, however, tells us to adorn the doctrines of the Lord our Saviour, and adorn it we must, if we would be good Christians.

And then, when we read the context, we see that the sacred writer is not referring to language, but to deeds. The beauty of Christian life is the true adornment of the truth of God.

A grain of seed is solitary and unadorned until it is planted in the ground and takes root, and produces a living plant. It is the same with the words of scripture; no matter how beautiful, lofty and inspiring they are in themselves, they are not decked out in their full beauty until the truth in them has taken root in human hearts and is revealed in human life.

The holy splendor of the Christmas message is only partly revealed in the words themselves. Christmas has taken a hold on Christian hearts everywhere. It has prompted more deeds of kindness and thoughtfulness, more acts of forgiveness and reconciliation, perhaps, than any other theme of Scripture.

The message: "God so loved the world" has been adorned with the exhortation: "Let us love one another!"

At this time, more than at other times, we feel the ineffable power and beauty of the gospel. We try to live the gospel. And our deeds done in the Christmas spirit, are the true Christmas ornaments.

Now, if you and I will only adorn the whole teaching of our Saviour throughout the rest of the year, then indeed the beauty of our faith will come into its own.

Greetings from the Editor

REV. V. J. EYLANDS

This week I received three copies of The Parish Messenger, the first to reach me in Iceland. I note that I am still listed as the Editor, a title I certainly do not merit, under the circumstances. But as I knew in advance, the Messenger has not suffered by the absence of the "Editor", rather the contrary, thanks to the able work done on its behalf by Rev. Marteinsson, and the increased co-operation of the news writers in the various districts. Without their co-operation this paper cannot prosper or fulfill its mission, no matter who the editor is.

Since my arrival here, I have heard some very pleasing remarks about our little paper from the few people who get it here. Rev. Fridrik Hallgrímsson, who recently arrived, hale and hearty as ever, from Holland, where he and his wife spent the summer, remarked that he was particularly happy to see The Parish Messenger, because of the church news feature. "That is something," said he, "which we tried

to do for the *Sameiningin* in my day, but never succeeded very well. Perhaps this paper will be more successful. The younger people, for whom this paper is intended, have as a rule more practice in writing, and frequently more time than the older generation. Let us hope they will keep up the good work, and make The Parish Messenger actually what, according to its name, it is supposed to be.

Professor Asmundur Gudmundsson, Dean of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Iceland, who also gets the paper, made complimentary comments regarding it. The Bishop of Iceland edits a paper, "Kirkjubladid", with a similar objective in mind, namely that of conveying news from the various churches and parishes. This is a bi-monthly publication, and is becoming increasingly popular. There is no doubt at all that papers of this kind have a place in the life of the modern church.

* * *

This summer will go into future annals as one of the most memorable in Iceland's long history. Unfortunately the presence here of the "Editor" of The Parish Messenger has nothing to do with it! But this Summer will be remembered because of the unprecedented rain and cold in the south, because of the near failure of the herring season in the north, but it is on this harvest of "silver" fish that the nation's economy rests. The summer will also be remembered because of the first Hekla eruption in more than a hundred years, and during its latter part, the nation woke up to the grim fact that she had to tighten her belt considerably after the boom years of the War, and its aftermath. It is the summer of the greatest inflation the nation has ever seen. Truly a remarkable year to be in Iceland, and to note the reaction of the people to these things. There certainly is no panic; very few people are heard to complain, even if they have to store their automobiles away for want of gasoline, or make some other such sacrifice. Hard years and good years, years of prosperity, but more often years of adversity and hardship have come like tidal waves over this nation during a thousand years, and it has survived to this day. So why worry? Nothing is going to happen now that has not happened before with much greater intensity. The nation has never been as well prepared economically to meet lean years as it is now, and she is ready to face the somewhat uncertain future with the same fortitude and sagacity which has always characterized her in the past.

* * *

We have now been in Iceland about four months. They have been months of varied and interesting experiences. I have seen many of my old friends and relatives in various parts of the country, and a host of relatives whom I had never seen. The wife and children have seen the country of their forbears, and I think I am safe in saying that they have been favorably impressed with many things. The entire atmosphere is different somehow. There is a strange combination of the old and new here, such as we have not seen in America. On the one hand, there are e.g. the crude and primitive "torfbæir", especially in the north country, and on the other, the ultra modern homes in towns and villages filled with such elegant and exquisitely beautiful furniture one rarely, if ever, sees in the West. Often this furniture consists of pieces of hand-carved oak of the most elaborate designs, frequently imported from Denmark or Germany before the War. Such furniture bears evidence of remarkable workmanship, where quality is the primary consideration, and

not hurry and mass production.

In the kitchen of the modern Icelandic housewife one will find American electric stoves and refrigerators together with a multitude of gadgets and appliances for comfort and convenience. In their spacious and immaculately clean basements you will find modern machinery for washing and even for drying the washing. You look in vain for the furnace in many of the Reykjavik homes; it just is not there, nor any of the usual evidences such as dust or ashes. The hot water is led into the City from distant springs and it serves the household with the same quiet efficiency as the electric lights and power which is similarly led from distant water falls. But the things that characterize the modern Icelandic home of the better type, more than perhaps anything else, are its books and original paintings. Whole walls are covered with beautifully bound books in several languages, and the remaining walls are oil paintings, often of great beauty and value, mostly Icelandic landscape. The visitor gets the impression that these people are highly cultured, refined in their taste, and above all very comfortably situated in life. Both men and women dress very well, and in that respect there is also the intermingling of the old and new; old Icelandic costumes and the latest Paris or New York fashion dress adorn women on the dance floor, who are graciously escorted by handsome men in tails. Formal dress is much in evidence, even on occasions where no American or Canadian would think of such attire. This is the continental European heritage which, in spite of evident western influence on the nation, has been well preserved here.

This is November 18th, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. It is completely dark here now and a strong wind is blowing from the north-west. There is snow on the ground, and this is the coldest day of the season so far. Yet the temperature is 20 above (F) but the howling wind makes it seem much colder than that. There are darker and colder days coming both for us and you, but Christmas will also soon be here with its light and warmth in the hearts of men. May it be a happy and blessed season for you all.

(We are very happy to receive this greeting from Rev. Eylands. You will look forward to getting the rest of it in the next issue, along with a picture of him and family in Iceland.)

† GRATITUDE

to all our contributors. We are sorry we could not find room for all the material received. Kindly make next month's notes brief. May pure, lovely Christmas happiness abound.

R. MARTEINSSON, 800 Lipton St., Winnipeg.

NOTES from OUR PARISHES

NOTES FROM VANCOUVER

By ENGA SIGURDSON

Once again the Women's Auxiliary Bazaar was successfully staged and their most sanguine expectations were realized. From the moment Mrs. H. Sigmar opened the fete at 2 p.m. on November 26, till 10.30 p.m., the hall looked like a gala carnival. Mrs. S. J. Sigmar and Mrs. G. A. Einarson of North Vancouver, were the capable general convenors.

For 29 days Vancouver was tied up with a transit strike, causing cancellations of meetings, amongst those, the November meeting of the W.A. The men of our congregation pooled their cars on November 2 and a large number enjoyed the eventful occasion when the Rev. Dr. H. Sigmar, Rev. Harold Sigmar of Seattle, and Rev. Eric Sigmar of Glenboro, conducted the service.

The first week of November was a sad one for Dr. and Mrs. Sigmar, as they were both bereaved by losing loved ones. Sympathy of the whole congregation and other friends here was expressed to Dr. Sigmar in the loss of his brother, Mr. Stephan Sigmar, farmer of the Argyle district, and to Mrs. H. Sigmar and her brother, Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson, in the passing of their beloved mother, Erica Thorlaksson, at Seattle on November 7, aged 88.

A fine lovable character, forceful and courageous, Mrs. Thorlaksson was a woman of solid virtues who shared the rigors of pioneer days in Selkirk with her husband, and her home was symbolic with warm hospitality and good will. Dr. Sigmar participated in both funerals. While in the east he visited his former church at Mountain, N.D., the oldest Icelandic church in America, where he was in charge for twenty years. He took a leading part in an impressive service before a capacity audience when a beautiful organ given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Einarson in memory of their son, Freeman, who died in 1945, was reverently dedicated.

Many Vancouverites were privileged to travel to Seattle on November 1 to witness the nuptials of Miss Margaret Sigmar and Mr. Elvin Kristjanson of Seattle. The young couple exchanged vows at a ceremony rich in tradition, before the bride's father and two brothers. Besides the bride's parents, those motoring from here were Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Sigmar and daughter Margaret; Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Solvason and daughter, Mrs. Gell; Miss Hazel

Sigurdson, Mr. Gillis, Mr. and Mrs. Gunnar Gudmundson, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Hambly and daughter Elizabeth, Mr. and Mrs. Knox Hambly and young daughter, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Thorlaksson and son Gordon, Mrs. Henry Sumarlidason and Mrs. J. Sigurdson.

A lecture by Mr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson on "New Frontiers of Peace" was recently enjoyed here by many Icelanders.

Mrs. Tryggvi Arason and two sons, of Cypress River, Man., are visiting friends here.

The Stefan Solvasons again opened their home to the Luther League for a meeting, this time on November 24.

The Thorlaksson family will long remember Wednesday evening, November 19, for it was on that date that a very happy gathering took place in Vancouver, when the four sons and two daughters of the late Rev. M. S. Thorlaksson and the late Erica Thorlaksson met here and enjoyed a family dinner and happy reunion. Those present were: Rev Dr. H. Sigmar, Mrs. Sigmar and son George, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Thorlaksson and son Gordon, Rev. Octavius Thorlaksson of Berkley, Calif., Dr. P. H. T. Thorlaksson of Winnipeg, Dr. H. F. Thorlaksson and his wife and Mrs. Harold M. East-vold of Seattle.

Our best wishes go to the members of the Thorlaksson family, each of whom has made a fine record and given valuable service to the community in which they have lived.

It seems a happy arrangement that our church choir will hold their Tuesday evening rehearsals at the Old Folks' Home, thereby giving much enjoyment to the residents.



BLAINE-POINT ROBERTS NOTES

By REV. A. S. HANSON

Stewardship month in the calendar of causes was stressed in the parish during the month of November. The churches have also been making plans and preparation for the Advent season. Regular services have been held at both churches with Pastor Hanson in the pulpit. The choirs at both churches have added much to the inspiration of the worship. Not only have people worshipped but they have also worked, and worked hard. Landscaping has been done at the Trinity Church in Pt. Roberts with beautiful shrubbery adorning the grounds. Cement steps and sidewalk have also been placed at this church. Renovation has also been

apparent at the Blaine Church. The floor of the church has been repainted. Bookracks for hymnals have been placed in the pews, and a sacristy was built by J. J. Straumford in the rear of the church. New entrance doors were made by A. E. Fjelstad. A paper drive was sponsored by the ever-growing Sunday School of the Blaine church as a beginning for the raising of funds for Sunday school rooms. A festive Thanksgiving Day service was held at Blaine on November 27. At this service the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Erling Olafson was brought into the Christian faith through Holy Baptism. The Luther League and the women's activities have done much to further the cause of the Kingdom through their efforts. The Pt. Roberts church held their annual bazaar on November 29. The Sunday Schools of both churches will present their annual programs during the Christmas holidays. Mrs. Alfred Stefansson of the Blaine church and Mrs. Arni Thorstenson of Pt. Roberts, and the teachers of the Sunday Schools in both churches are to be congratulated on their fine work with the church school.

Pastor Hanson delivered the message during the Lutheran Vesper Hour broadcast over KVOS, Bellingham on Sunday evening, November 16. Music was arranged by Mr. Jule Samuelson of Bellingham.

Youth Night at Pt. Roberts has become a regular affair. The high school group gets together for dinner, fellowship and fun. Plans are being made for a big Christmas party at the Point Roberts Hall for the youth of that community.

Mr. Octavius Thorlaksson and Mr. Victor Jonasson visited in Blaine recently, as did Rev. E. H. Sigmar.

ARGYLE PARISH NEWS

By REV. E. H. SIGMAR

All four of the congregations of the parish are in the midst of preparations for the Christmas Services and Sunday School programmes. Brief Nativity scene pageants and individual recitations will be the leading features of the Sunday School programmes. The choirs of the congregations are meeting to rehearse the special Christmas hymns and anthems.

A farewell party was held in the Bru Parish hall on Monday evening, November 24th in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Oli Stefansson and family of the Bru congregation. Mr. and Mrs. Stefansson and family were very active and faithful members of the Bru church. Mr.

Stefansson has been choir director for over 20 years. He has also served as president of the congregation, and has been often a delegate from his church to the annual meetings of our synod. Mrs. Stefansson has also been a member of the choir, and a very active member of the Ladies' Aid. The oldest son, William has been an officer of the Young People's Luther League of this congregation. The congregation and parish are sorry to see them leave, but they wish them God's richest blessings in their new home in Vancouver. The Stefansson family was presented with beautiful gifts from the Church, Community and Choir.

Two active churchmen of the Parish have recently passed away. They are Mr. Gudmundar Lambertsen of the Glenboro Congregation, and Mr. Steve Sigmar of the Grund Congregation. Mr. Lambertsen passed away in Winnipeg on October 27. Funeral services were held in the Glenboro Lutheran Church on October 29. Pastor E. H. Fafnis conducted the service in the absence of the local pastor. Mr. Lambertsen came from Iceland as a young man to Glenboro. He was one of the original members of the Glenboro Congregation and served as its secretary for many years.

Mr. Steve Sigmar passed away in his home on November 4th. Funeral services were held from the Grund Church. Pastor E. Sigmar, and Dr. H. Sigmar, brother of the deceased, conducted the services. The Rev. E. Brynjolfson, acting pastor of the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg also spoke at the services. Mr. Steve Sigmar was a member of the Grund Church since the time of his baptism, and served his congregation in numerous official capacities.

Two infants have been brought into church membership recently through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. They are ALLEN KARI, baby son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Gordon of Belmont, (the mother is the former Kristine Johnson of Baldur) who was baptized at his parents' home; and WILLIAM DESMOND, baby son of Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Johnson of Baldur (the mother is the former Gudrun Peterson of Baldur) who was baptized in the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Baldur.

Holy Communion was celebrated in the churches of the parish on the last Sunday in Trinity and on Advent Sunday. The services were well attended.

Miss Eleanore Gillstrom of the Parish and Church School Board of our United Lutheran Church visited the parish on November 17 and 18. She is Educational Missionary for our Church in Western Canada. She spoke to a gathering from the Glenboro and Bru congregations on the first evening in the Glenboro

Church, and after the meeting she met with the teachers and officers of the two Sunday Schools for further discussion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. August Arason. On Tuesday evening a similar meeting was held in the Baldur Church at which members from the Grund and Baldur congregations attended. Teachers and officers of these two Sunday Schools adjourned with Miss Gillstrom to the John Sveinsson home for further discussion. The parish appreciated the visit of Miss Gillstrom, who spoke of the important program and work of the Sunday School, and challenged us to greater and more effective work in that branch of the Church's mission.

At this time the writer wishes to extend to all readers of the *Parish Messenger* best wishes for a blessed Christmas, and a joyous New Year.



NEWS ITEMS FROM SEATTLE

By MRS. RAY OLASON

In a setting of chrysanthemums, Miss Margaret Sigmar, daughter of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. H. Sigmar of Vancouver, B.C. exchanged marriage vows with Mr. Elvin Kristjanson, November 1st, in the Calvary Lutheran Church. Mr. Kristjanson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hannes Kristjanson.

The bride wore a white satin gown and a circle veil of finger-tip illusion which fell from a coronet of rosebuds and stephanatis. She carried a white prayer book with an orchid and trailing stephanatis and rosebuds.

Mrs. Harold Sigmar, matron of honor, was dressed in teal blue. Her flowers were yellow tea roses.

The bridesmaids were Miss Beverly Hanson and Miss Anne Thorlakson in frocks of yellow, and Miss Norma Anderson in a gown of teal blue. They carried chrysanthemums.

Carol Eastvold in a dress of white taffeta was the flower girl. She carried a basket of rose petals.

Mr. Bill Kristjanson was best man and ushering were Mr. Arthur Kristjanson, Mr. Neal Thorlakson, and Mr. Knox Hambly.

Candle-lighters were Miss Margaret Louise Sigmar and Mrs. Ray Olafsson.

The bride's father, the Rev. Dr. H. Sigmar officiated at the ceremony and was assisted by his sons, the Rev. Harold Sigmar, of Seattle, and the Rev. Eric Sigmar of Glenboro, Manitoba.

Soloists were: Dr. E. Palmason, the Rev. Eric Sigmar and Mr. Tani Bjornson.

The wedding reception was held in the church parlors. Pouring were: Mesdames Halfdan Thorlakson, Ivan Hambly, Fred Thor-

lakson, Sig. Sigmar and Harold Eastvold. Mrs. G. Olason cut the wedding cake.

The bride attended University of North Dakota, and was graduated from Aucker Hospital School of Nursing in St. Paul, Minn. Her husband attended Mayville Teachers' College and the University of North Dakota, and served in the Second World War with the Coast Artillery Corps.

Mr. and Mrs. Kristjanson are at home in Seattle.

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A busy bride-to-be with showers and parties, was Miss Mabel Scheving, daughter of Mrs. Emma Scheving who Saturday, October 14, became the bride of Mr. Donald Thordarson, son of Mr. G. Thordarson of Svold, North Dakota.

For the church ceremony at which the Rev. Harold Sigmar officiated, the bride wore a gown of traditional white satin and a long veil caught by a pearl tiara. She carried a bouquet of pink and white roses.

The bridesmaids were Miss Carol Greenleve, in a gown of aqua blue, and Miss Romelle Ihme in salmon pink. The matron of honor, Mrs. Dorothy Dioz wore a frock of pale yellow. They carried colonial bouquets of roses.

Margaret Anne Bjornson in a gown of white satin and net was the flower girl.

The best man was Mr. Marlin Anderson and ushering were Mr. J. Nichols and Mr. Fred Arnason.

Candle lighters were Miss Margaret Northfield and Miss Anna Scheving.

Mr. Tani Bjornson sang three songs.

The reception was held in the church parlors. Pouring were Mrs. Steve Scheving, Mrs. Bill Laurence and Miss Valdina Gislason.

Mrs. Steve Johnson cut the wedding cake.

After a short wedding trip, the couple are at home in Seattle.

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A Memorial service was held in the church November 8th for Mrs. N. S. Thorlakson, who died in Seattle on the 6th.

The following pastors participated: The Rev. Dr. S. C. Eastvold, the Rev. Harold Sigmar, the Rev. Dr. H. A. Stubb, and the Rev. L. H. Steinhoff.

The body was shipped to Selkirk, Manitoba for burial.

Several gifts to the organ memorial fund were given in her honor.

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On Sunday, November 16th, the Rev. S. O. Thorlakson delivered the sermons at both the English and Icelandic services. He is on his way home from his mother's funeral in Selkirk.